

Letters from Readers

The Courant welcomes brief, signed letters on matters of interest.
The text may be shortened to provide space for others.

Presley Money-Use Suggested

To the Editor:

A great number of Elvis Presley fans have expressed the desire to hold on to tickets to the concert that was to have been held Aug. 21. Have they given any thought to how the city of Hartford will dispose of the money, which could amount to thousands of dollars?

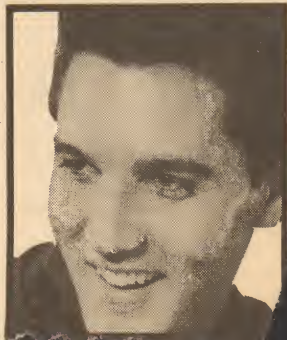
Legally, they can't hold on to this money. It isn't theirs to keep. I suggest this money go to the city to be used for increasing the seating capacity in the civic center's coliseum. I am sure Elvis would have liked this idea very much.

I suggest such fans write to the City Council stating how many tickets were ordered and the amount of money spent, and tell the city to spend that money for seating expansion. The city could erect a plaque commemorating the event when the seating project is finished. It could read:

"In memory of Elvis Presley and his fans, who generously contributed to the seating expansion of this coliseum."

Thomas R. DiBattista

West Hartford



Problem

further state business. Schaefer came away from the meeting satisfied with Mrs. Grasso's denial and the governor came away with the promise for use of the lot and an understanding that the lot will be given to the state within a "reasonable time."

The deal has been bounced around since last year when Schaefer offered it to the state as a gift, which he planned to use as a tax

shelter. Because the state failed to act, Schaefer and partner Harry A. Gampel withdrew the offer when the shelter evaporated.

Schaefer said the issue stems from his image as a major and "controversial" state landlord, an image which developed in 1974 when he and Gampel sold the college building to the state for \$7.3 million, after the state ignored an opportunity to buy it for \$4.5 million.

Safety measures designed to prevent recurrence of the July 7 fire that killed five inmates have been put into effect at the Federal Correctional Institution in Danbury. New regulations include removal of flammable materials, a clearance of all new materials by the local fire marshal before installation and the purchase of additional fire-control and life-saving equipment.

In one of the hottest takeover battles in recent years, the contest for control of Babcock Wilcox Co. came to a climax last week with United Technologies Corp. offering \$55 a share in cash and J. Ray McDermott Co. topping that with a bid of \$60 a share in cash and stock. The next move is up to UTC which has to decide whether to increase its offer another time.

Then, just in case his passengers were sufficiently impressed by all the opulence, he would conclude his travelogue with, "I hope you folks, only a few years ago Mr. Gengras was a car salesman."

E. Clayton Gengras Sr., who is celebrating his birthday today at his Saybrook summer home, led at the bit about the "used car salesman."

"They used to call me a tire thumper," he called with some amusement.

Gengras' business career began selling cars. Eventually he became one of the largest Ford dealers before moving into the real estate field. His successes have made him a millionaire.

It could be inferred from Gengras' reputation for being called a used car salesman that, if he can take that, labeling him "shadow governor" might be a compliment.

But he will have none of it.

"Shadow governor" is a term coined by critics, laborers and politicians, and used mostly in the union critical of Gov. Grasso.

It derives from the role Gengras, a Republican, is playing in the Democratic gubernatorial campaign.

Its connotation might have an effect on the gubernatorial election since Gengras for years has been a big cat contributor to the Republican Party.

He vigorously denies that his role in the Administration is in any way political, but cryptically that in the 1978 election, "I will be on the sidelines."

If he also sits

King of Rock Has Notable Geneaology

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UPI) — Every rock fan knows that Elvis Presley came from a family of Mississippi sharecroppers.

But the Brentwood Historical Society, as part of a Bicentennial project, discovered that before the Civil War the family lived in Tennessee and produced "renowned professors, doctors, judges and ministers."

According to Richard Fulcher, Presley's father, grandfather and great-grandfather all struggled in the Mississippi bottom land. He said prior to the Civil War almost each generation of the family produced "at least one brilliant accomplishment."

Fulcher and the society traced the family through 11 generations from its emigration from Ireland in the early 18th century.

"The history of this family is really incredibly interesting," Fulcher said.

"Beginning with the first generation to emigrate, the family has been noted for its accomplishments. The first generation fought in the Revolutionary War, for example. The second generation was an early pioneer family in East Tennessee, and from them came generations of renowned professors, judges, doctors and ministers," he said.

"It wasn't until the Reconstruction Era that the family's fortunes were reversed, after the great-great-grandfather had moved to Mississippi."

Fulcher said that the history of the Presley family was completed last year, but it has been since the singer's death that a great deal of interest has been generated in the work.

enough so that the patient needs to be taken directly to a hospital.

Johnson administrator William A. Stoppani said last week that a relatively low proportion of emergency room cases are brought by ambulance. Johnson officials have said extremely serious medical problems, like heart problems, burns, and head injuries, still would be taken to hospitals even if an emergency room is open.

An emergency room would be similar to one run in Groton by Johnson and Memorial Hospitals of New London, according to hospital administrators.

Juniewicz said most patients are brought to the hospital by their family or

ambulance. Johnson administrator's office, he said.

Johnson officials are trying to gauge public support for an emergency room here. They have said they believe there is a need for an emergency medical facility here.

Location of such a facility and its cost haven't been considered yet.

—O—

Person with small truck or station wagon, for early morning delivery of newspapers to carriers and dealers. Seven days a week. Commission plus mileage no collections. Contact Mr. Wm. Spillane, Mgr., Enfield Office, The Hartford Courant Co., 810 Enfield St., Enfield, Ct. phone 745-0344.—Advt.

Plea for Fowl Refuge

Members agreed to sur-
re the public hear-
duled for Sept. 29.
before the commis-
Alaimo, repre-
ts of Susan Starr,
e change on 53
al development
Road.

the motives behind the zone change request because the land owners were aware of the zoning restrictions when the property was purchased.

Veterinarians' Plea

Robert and Tobi Steinberg, two veterinarians, appeared before the commission because they wish to operate a veterinary clinic.

Tickets Are Kept By Mourning Fans

Continued from Page 1

"This is the biggest impact we've ever had with anything. It's been out of this world, fantastic, unbelievable," said Roger Berubi, manager of the Belmont Record Shop in Hartford where 500 Elvis albums had been sold by mid-afternoon Wednesday.

Berubi said the buyers crossed the social spectrum from "teeny-boppers to 70-year-old men." More than 20 persons were waiting outside the door when the Belmont opened at 10 a.m. All went directly for the Elvis rack, said Berubi.

At Al Franklin's Musical World at the civic center, a woman arrived after all the Elvis albums had been sold, so she bought tapes, said co-owner Lynne Franklin. Then the woman bought an 8-track tape player so she could listen to them, Mrs. Franklin said.

Pop radio stations played tributes to Elvis and were deluged with calls from mourning fans. Allegheny Airlines denied reports large numbers of Connecticut resi-

dents had flown to Memphis for Presley's wake.

At the civic center a thin young man, who said his name was Richard J. Breault and that he played the harmonica, drums, piano and guitar, carried a cardboard sign reading "Elvis donations 10 cents."

Breault said he hoped to use the money to charter a bus for a pilgrimage to Memphis. He said he had raised enough to buy some food.

The format of a rock and roll revival show that was to play at the civic center Saturday was revised to include a slide show and taped music tribute to Elvis.

At the Records Unlimited store in Windsor, manager Gary Gilmore said the run on Elvis records was like nothing he had experienced in 19 years in the business.

In a few hours Wednesday the store sold 150 Elvis albums, more than the store sometimes sells in an entire day.

"He must have been more of a star than people realized," said Gilmore.

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